

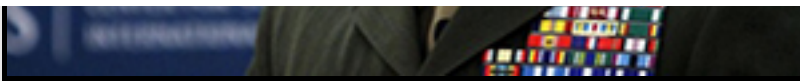


## TIP OF THE SPEAR

### MARINES PLAN TROOP CUTS, COMMAND HEADQUARTERS RELOCATIONS BY 2017



Congressionally mandated budget cuts will force the Marine Corps to trim the "strategy-driven" force design it had envisioned and shift toward reduced troop strength said Maj. Gen. Kenneth McKenzie Jr., the Marine representative for the Defense Department's Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) being prepared for release in February 2014. The end strength reduction would require a 1-to-2 dwell force ratio, assigning Marines to six months of deployment, followed by 12 at home. The



cut from the current 194,000 troops would be accomplished by 2017, McKenzie said, adding that if sequestration continued, the "lowest risk band" option the Corps could

handle would be 174,000. The Marines' plan also involves cutting tanks and artillery, eliminating a three-star expeditionary force headquarters command in Camp Lejeune, N.C., and deemphasizing long-term stabilization activities such as cooperative threat-response exercises with allies. [Read more](#)



## PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Machine gunner and squad leader, Lance Cpl. Jeremy Coulon from Weapons Platoon, Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, Marine Rotational Force - Darwin, patrols through a Tongan village on his way to a vehicle checkpoint training evolution as part of Exercise Tafakula 2013, Sept. 10. The platoons from MRF-D, the Tongan Defence Service and the French Foreign Legion, worked together to eliminate a simulated enemy threat during the training evolution. *(Photo by Lance Cpl. Nathan Knapke)*



## IN THE NEWS

### MILITARY LEADERS RAISE SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS



September is suicide prevention month and leaders of the Department of Defense (DoD), are taking the opportunity to raise awareness and remember the service members lost to suicide. "We must make suicide awareness, prevention and intervention a priority," said Gen. James F. Amos, Commandant of the Marines Corps. The DoD has instituted mandatory annual classes and programs to educate service members on the signs and symptoms of suicide so they can better help those in need. And Amos wants Marines in trouble to know they can and should receive help. "We have to make it very clear it is not a sign of weakness to ask for

help," he said. [Read More](#)

[DSTRSS Line Website](#)

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### CORPS PREPARES FOR BROADER OPERATIONS



The Marine Corps is developing new units and partnerships across the globe as it shifts from ground operations in Afghanistan to responding to a variety of crises and hostilities in other regions. The plan calls for new initiatives in numerous theaters, including the Pacific, Middle East, Africa and possibly South America, despite the mandated budget cuts. The service has long prided itself on actively engaging with friendly militaries across the globe, building relationships it can rely on later when military action is needed. The ongoing drawdown in Afghanistan has enabled the service to do more of that, and it plans to keep expanding in the future.

[Read more](#)

## ENLISTED MARINE FEMALES BEGIN INFANTRY COURSE



The first group of enlisted Marine women began the Infantry Training Course Sept. 24 as part of the Marine Corps' efforts to analyze integration of women into frontline ground combat roles. The 59-day training course for enlisted service members at the School of Infantry in Camp Geiger, N.C. includes various physical trials is a series of four demanding hikes beginning at 5 kilometers and increasing to 10, 15 and finally 20 kilometers. Six female officer volunteers to the Infantry Officer Course in Quantico, Va., but so far none have completed the course. Six more officers will attempt the course in October. [Read more](#)

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## MARINE NAMED 2013 USO VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



Gunnery Sgt. Jeremiah Johnson was named United Service Organizations' (USO) 2013 Volunteer of the Year and will be honored Oct. 25 at the USO Gala in Washington, D.C. Among his volunteer efforts while serving in Okinawa, Japan, were keeping the United through Reading Military Program available to service members and initiating the camp's "Midnight Munchies" program to provide service members a trouble-free alternative on Saturday nights. "He exemplifies the best of the best in our military today -- service to country, family, and community with the utmost honor and integrity -- and, I'd venture say, a large dose of humility," said

Betsy McWhirt, USO Director of Volunteer Services. [Read more](#)

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## EXERCISE TAFAKULA 2013 TESTS SECURITY SKILLS



Platoons from Marine Rotational Force Darwin, the Tongan Defence Service and the French Foreign Legion participated in Exercise Tafakula 2013, in Tongatapu, Kingdom of Tonga, Sept. 10. The exercise was focused around identifying an enemy threat using a vehicle checkpoint. After the "extremist" disguised as a service member was identified, rebels started attacking the checkpoint and fire teams deployed in response. Blank rounds were used throughout the 20-minute "firefight," which left the

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extremists subdued and all three militaries with a completed mission.

[Read more](#)

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## MARINES STRIVE TO MAINTAIN GLOBAL READINESS



As the U.S. and other nations push for chemical-weapons disarmament in Syria, 2,200 Marines of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) are aboard the amphibious assault ship Kearsarge awaiting orders in nearby waters. While there is no indication that the Marines will go ashore in Syria or any neighboring country, they remain a credible threat as America's global quick-reaction force. The role is one that the Marine Corps has always trained for, and look to recapture as they stay involved in missions in the Middle East but continue their pivot to the Asia-Pacific region. [Read more](#)

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## AVIATION TRAINING EXERCISE EXPANDS



The Weapons and Tactics Instructor (WTI) course held in Yuma, Ariz., is adding the Yuma Regional Medical Center to its simulated foreign humanitarian disaster relief effort exercise. WTI brings Marine aviators from around the country to Yuma twice a year for some of the most realistic training possible in advanced aviation tactics, techniques and procedures. The exercise provides students with realistic training, consistent with missions they may encounter as natural disasters strike around the world. For the "final," students plan and conduct an evacuation of civilians in a simulated noncombatant humanitarian mission. [Read](#)

[more](#)





# THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

**SEPTEMBER 23, 1776**

Continental Marines were ordered to reinforce Gen. George Washington in New York.



## SEMPER FI

### 46 YEARS LATER VIETNAM VETS AWARDED FOR HEROIC ACTIONS



Vietnam veterans Joe Cordileone and Robert Moffatt were awarded the Silver and Bronze Star medals Sept. 20 for their courage during the Battle of Khe Sanh in 1967. More than 75 percent of the service members with them that day were wounded or killed, including the commanders who would make the recommendations for their medals 46 years ago. Cordileone still has shrapnel in his face, Moffatt continues to see doctors for traumatic brain injury, and both still suffer from post-traumatic stress. "I did nothing more than any other Marine would have done in the same situation, and I certainly know that I did no more than any other Marine or

corpsman who climbed hill 881 with me that day," said Cordileone. [Read more](#)



# THE CORPS REPORT

.The Corps Report: Ep. 19 - Corps to Drop Numbers and Changes to Tuition Assistance



## OUR MISSION

*In the words of Lt. Gen. Victor H. "Brute" Krulak, "The United States does not need a Marine Corps...the United States wants a Marine Corps." As America's Expeditionary Force in Readiness, the Marine Corps is deployed across the globe, standing ready to respond to any crisis. The Marine Corps Connection is your one-stop source for the latest Marine Corps news and is published weekly by the Division of Public Affairs at Headquarters Marine Corps. **Stay connected to your Marines!***



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